NMCI's San Diego Network Operations Center Opens on Coronado

SAN DIEGO — The Department of the Navy's information technology systems took a step into the future Monday as the San Diego Network Operations Center for the Navy and Marine Corps Intranet opened in the Grace Hopper computer building on Coronado Island. More than 500 people attended the ceremony marking the start of operations in the NMCI's San Diego NOC.

Information Strike Force employees monitor activity in the San Diego Network Operations Center Monday.

This center at the North Island Naval Air Station will control the connectivity for business computing operations serving more than 78,000 of the 360,000 Navy and Marine Corps shore-based computer users.

The Information Strike Force will operate the NOC and can back up any regional network operations center in an emergency. Employing more than 340 people when fully staffed, the San Diego NOC will provide an annual payroll of $38 million to the San Diego economy.

More than 70 sailors will also work in the facility alongside the ISF employees in a sea/shore rotation program that will give sailors hands-on network experience that will be used aboard ship during a later assignment.

The facility sports a visual information wall providing controllers with status of data flow between Department of the Navy sites that have converted to the NMCI and to and from the internet. The wiring in the NOC amounts to more than 757 miles of fiber and copper cable bringing together servers, computers, data storage and external connections to the world.

The San Diego and Norfolk facilities are located in the two main fleet concentration centers and will be the primary network hubs for the NMCI. These centers will provide critical services such as network management and monitoring, help desk support, user administration, information assurance as well as NIPRNET and SIPRNET access.

Guest speakers at the San Diego ceremony marking the opening of the Center were Vice Admiral Richard Mayo, Director, Navy Space, Information Warfare, Command & Control, Brig. Gen. Robert Shea, assistant chief of staff of the Marine Corps command, control, communications and computers, and Mr. Rick Rosenberg, EDS Program Executive for NMCI.

Since October 2000, the Information Strike Force and the Navy have achieved Assumption of Responsibility (AOR) at 29 sites and more than 42,000 seats across the USA. AOR is the date when responsibility for operating the "as-is" computer environment at a Navy or Marine Corps facility shifts from the government to the Information Strike Force.

The 29 first-increment sites are widely dispersed, including locations in California, Indiana, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Simultaneous installation is being accomplished with the help of more than 127 subcontractors, many of which are small businesses that had performed similar functions under contract to the Navy prior to the NMCI contract award.

The next major NMCI facility to open here will be the Help Desk located on Sherman Street near Old Town San Diego.

The information Strike Force is implementing the $6.9 billion Navy Marine Corps Intranet service contract. ISF is made up of EDS, WorldCom, Cisco, Wam!Net, Microsoft, Dell, Dolch, Ratheon, Dataline and numerous small businesses.

Carlsbad-based Rancho Santa Fe Technology-MCS Inc., renovated the facilities and installed the new communications and support equipment. The company employs about 400 people on contracts valued at $75,000,000 to renovate and upgrade facilities for the NMCI in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. More than $40 million of those contracts are for work on the Network Operations Center on North Island, server farms on Point Loma, and the Help Desk and IT laboratory at Commerce Point (near Old Town). In addition to the San Diego work, Rancho Santa Fe is currently upgrading infrastructure and technology systems for about $15 million on Navy and Marine Corps bases at Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, China Lake, and Lemoore in California and Fallon, Nevada.

SPAWAR moved to San Diego from Washington, D.C. in 1997 and employs more than 4,000 people in the San Diego area. SPAWAR is one of the Department of the Navy's three major acquisition commands with an annual budget of about $4.6 billion. Its mission is to enable knowledge superiority for the warfighter through the development, acquisition and life cycle support of effective, capable and integrated C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance), Information Technology, and Space Systems.

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